

For Immediate Release
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THE FOUNDATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2005-2006 MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY JOURNALISM AWARDS

Washington, DC – The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) today announced the winners of the 2005-2006 Michael E. DeBakey Journalism Awards. This prestigious journalism prize program was established in 2001 to bring American journalists and scientists together to inspire exceptional, outstanding, and ongoing news coverage of biomedical research that involves laboratory animals.

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey praised this year's winners in saying: "The Awards go to eminently deserving journalists for their excellent reporting on animal research. I commend all the awardees for their efforts in helping educate the public about the activities, and the benefits, of biomedical science."

The recipients of the Fifth Annual DeBakey Awards are:

Print - Large Market: Bijal Trivedi, a freelance science writer for the *New Scientist* for "Life on Hold; There's a Strange State Between Being Dead and Being Alive that Could Save Your Life." This insightful article discloses the findings of a potentially life-saving medical procedure involving suspended animation. Readers of the article are provided a clear understanding of the varied techniques currently being perfected through the use of a wide range of animals. The dramatic success rate researchers are experiencing may soon translate to human trials.

Print - Small Market: Mara Bovsun, a features editor of the *AKC Gazette* for "Starve a Tumor, Save a Dog." Bovsun's touching report investigates a unique clinical trial designed to help dogs dying of cancer. She interviewed veterinarians and researchers who are helping animals get the most advanced therapies available. These researchers may soon transform human and canine cancers from a death sentence to a manageable, yet chronic disease.

Radio: Rosemary Pennington, a public radio host and producer at **WBHM FM** in Birmingham, AL for "Babec's Pacemaker." Pennington's piece chronicles the story of a silverback gorilla, named Babec, and the pacemaker that saved his life. Rosemary's winning report brought insight into the little reported advances being made in primate cardiac research and its similarities to human health studies.

Internet: Arlene Weintraub, an associate editor for *BusinessWeek's* science and technology department for "Side of Valves, Hold the Bacon." Weintraub's winning report is part of a series featuring the vital genetic work researchers are undertaking to eliminate a variety of human diseases. These engaging reports bring much needed attention to how animal research applies to human health.

Honorable Mention: Weintraub is also being recognized for her outstanding contribution to the Print - Large Market category for a piece entitled "Crossing the Gene Barrier." This informative and engaging report was a part of the series for which she has been awarded first prize in the Internet category.

The awards, which include a cash prize and a heart-shaped trophy — crafted by Canadian glass artist Robert Held — will be presented Monday, May 15, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

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Dr. DeBakey, the chancellor emeritus of Baylor College of Medicine, is world renowned for his contributions as a premier heart surgeon, medical inventor, scholar, teacher, and international medical statesman. Affectionately referred to as “The King of Hearts,” the father of modern cardiovascular surgery is the recipient of 57 honorary degrees and the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction. Dr. DeBakey is this country’s most honored physician. He is the recipient of the prestigious Lasker Award for Research, the National Medal of Science, the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award, the AMA Distinguished Service Award, and the United Nation’s Lifetime Achievement Award, among others. He has been named “A Living Legend” by the Library of Congress and has been inducted into the Health Care Hall of Fame. Recently, NASA recognized him with the Commercial Invention of the Year Award. In addition, in 2003, Dr. DeBakey received the Gold Hippocrates International Award, which is presented each year to ten leading physicians in the world in recognition of their exceptional humanity, modesty, intelligence, and knowledge.

The Foundation for Biomedical Research is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted to promoting public understanding, respect and support for humane and responsible animal research. Six Nobel laureates, 13 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 13 fellows of the National Academy of Sciences, a former Surgeon General and a former Cabinet Secretary serve on its board of directors.

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